



# STORM CHASERS: GETTING AHEAD OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC DILEMMA

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# Problem Identification

- There has been a lack of leadership to address mounting policy issues associated with the ageing population in Québec and Ontario
- Lack of leadership has limited the capacity of the government to coordinate the creation and implementation of policy solutions in regards to the ageing population

# Risk Identification

## Risks of Inaction

- Impending crisis becomes a reality
  - *Skyrocketing costs*
  - *Over stretched labour force*
  - *Budget cuts to compensate for the increased burden*
  - *Increased confusion, lack of coordination and inefficiency in public service*
  - *Continued lack of leadership*
  - *Reactive policy making leads to short term solutions and insufficient flexibility and maneuverability*

# Risk Identification

## Risks of Action

- Political Opposition
  - *Complexity of needs and structures is unwieldy*
- Resources
  - *Requires high level of communication and collaboration*
- Potential for failure
  - *Associated costs are high*
  - *Provinces not interested in the pre-management of the impending crisis*

# Contextual Analysis

- Premiers in Québec and Ontario have identified that the ageing populations will have severe effects on public policy
- The most severe effects will be on the workforce and health care sector
- Québec and Ontario have existing productive partnerships
- It is recognized that many, if not all, of the provincially identified issues in Québec and Ontario are applicable to other Canadian provinces
- Lack of leadership due to multi-sectors and multi-jurisdictions

# Contextual Analysis

- Working collaboratively with other government bodies for a national strategy will be beneficial
- Some of the policy areas identified by the provinces fall under federal jurisdiction
- The federal government has previously responded to provincial pressures when Québec and Ontario partner together
- The federal government has publicly announced that it wants to work in partnership with the provinces

# Strategic Options

## Option 1

- Create a formal partnership between Québec and Ontario
  - *Strategic plan and coordinated approach to policy development and establishment of best practices*
  - *Ask the federal government for funding to supplement implementation policies established in the partnership*

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- No need to work with the provinces;</li><li>- Ability to strengthen existing partnerships;</li><li>- Less expensive for the Federal government.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Federal government will claim right to strategic leadership;</li><li>- Lack of impartial coordination body;</li><li>- Less opportunity to identify areas of greater efficiency.</li></ul>

# Strategic Options

## Option 2

- Create a formal partnership between Québec and Ontario
  - *Strategic plan and coordinated approach to policy development and establishment of best practices*
  - *Invite Council of the Federation to participate*
  - *National strategy oversight by Council of the Federation*
  - *Request federal funding and support*

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Greater leverage for Ontario and Québec;</li><li>- Proof of existing and functional organization;</li><li>- Create nation-wide momentum.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- May take longer if only Ontario and Québec were involved;</li><li>- Need to assess needs of provinces;</li><li>- Requires cooperation of Council of the Federation.</li></ul>



# Strategic Options

## Option 3

- Create an independent national organization mandated with the strategic development of policy goals to address the needs of the ageing population

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Work as a neutral oversight entity;</li><li>- Build liaison between provinces;</li><li>- Provide networking and information sharing opportunities.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Difficult to create agreeable parameters;</li><li>- Cost of creation is high;</li><li>- Similar bodies have the ability to fulfill these duties.</li></ul>

# Implementation Considerations

- Time
- Complexity
- Opportunities and challenges around leadership
- Existing resources and their potential

# Preferred Option

## Option 2

- Create a formal partnership between Québec and Ontario
  - *Strategic plan and coordinated approach to policy development and establishment of best practices*
  - *Invite Council of the Federation to participate*
  - *National strategy oversight by Council of the Federation*
  - *Request federal funding and support*
- Balances implementation with national coordination
- Creates the capacity for long-term planning with existing structure

# Implementation Plan

## Stage 1: Québec-Ontario Partnership (*Year 1 and 2*)

- Build on existing relationship to create strategic plan and coordinated approach
- Establish high level leadership: Premiers, Finance, Health, Labour, Education, Immigration, Social Services, Seniors
- Two prongs: stimulate innovation, develop best practices and common protocols
- Engage existing capacities in various sectors: public, private, advanced education

# Implementation Plan

## Stage 1: Québec-Ontario Partnership, Reallocation Strategy (*Year 1 and 2*)

- Provincial commitment to reallocation strategy to meet short-term needs
- Reallocation of the budget based on assessments made to determine where there should be cuts

# Implementation Plan

## Stage 2: Council of the Federation (*Years 3 to 5*)

- Present strategic plan to Council of the Federation – invite provinces to address issue and work together
- Implications of national impact of aging demographic
- Evaluation and monitoring of issue needed
- Lobbying power with federal government increased with weight of provinces
- Coordination and mediation of dialogue between governments

# Implementation Plan

## Stage 3: Approaching the Federal Government (*Years 6 to 10*)

- Engaging Federal government needed for long-term approach
- Aging demographic impacts Federal jurisdiction and funding to provinces
- Council of the Federation lobbies Federal government to support strategic plans and adapt funding to changing needs

# What Success Looks Like

- Strong and well-established partnership between Québec and Ontario
- Cooperation of the Council of the Federation
  - *Effective national monitoring of the issue*
- Implicated sectors are able to make specific plans consistent with the strategic goals of the partnership
- Strong federal involvement with adequate funding
- The issue is being addressed on a national scale